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## **SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES**

### **What you should know:**

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are the most frequently reported diseases in the United States with approximately 12 million new cases occurring each year. Evidence shows that the presence of some STDs (i.e., syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia) can increase the likelihood, by at least two to five times, of acquiring HIV through sexual contact. If an HIV-positive person is co-infected with an STD, that person is more likely to transmit HIV through sexual contact.

The best way to prevent STD transmission is to avoid sexual contact with another individual. Persons who choose to be sexually active are advised to talk to their health care provider about STD testing and treatment, and to use latex condoms which can reduce the risk of transmission.

### **What we do:**

The California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (CDHS/OA) and CDHS/STD Control Branch collaborate to support rapid HIV testing and counseling in STD clinics, STD screening and referrals in HIV counseling and testing sites, and inclusion of STD risk reduction information and education in HIV prevention programs and materials.

### **Helpful resources:**

- For information on other local HIV/AIDS services, see the *California AIDS Clearinghouse Resource Directory* at <http://www.hivinfo.org/links/lhj.htm>.
- For information on local STD services see the CDHS/STD Control Branch website <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/STD/stdindex.htm>.
- For information on national HIV/STD services see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), STD website <http://www.cdc.gov/std> or call the CDC National STD Information Line at: (800) 232-4636 (English/Spanish) or (888) 232-6348 (TDD).
- For information about HIV/AIDS, call the:
  - *California AIDS Hotline* at (800) 367-AIDS (English/Spanish/Filipino) or (888) 225-AIDS (TDD).
  - *National AIDS Hotline* at (800) 342-AIDS (English), (800) 344-SIDA (Spanish), or (800) 243-7889 (TDD).
- For information on OA's mission, OA programs, and other helpful resources, see the OA website at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS>.

